

United States Government

Standard USG-1: The student will demonstrate an understanding of foundational political theory, concepts, and application.

Essential Understanding: To appropriately evaluate the governmental system of the United States citizens must understand the nature and purpose of government in general. An understanding of basic political ideas allows nations to organize and structure the institutions of government in the most effective, legitimate manner. In order for students to understand and evaluate basic governmental function, organization, and effectiveness they will be able to...

Indicators

- USG 1.1 Analyze political theories related to the existence, necessity, and purpose of government including state of nature, natural rights, balance of the public/private sphere, and physical & economic security.
- USG 1.2 Analyze components of government and the governing process including politics, power, authority, sovereignty, legitimacy, public institutions, efficacy, and civic life.
- USG 1.3 Evaluate the role and relationship of the citizen to government in democratic, republican, authoritarian, and totalitarian systems.
- USG 1.4 Analyze the institutional and organizational structure of government that allows it to carry out its purpose and function effectively including branches of government, legitimate bureaucratic institutions, and civil society.
- USG 1.5 Evaluate limited and unlimited governments in regards to governing, including rule of law, role of written constitutions, civil rights, political freedom, economic freedom, and ability of citizens to impact/influence the governing process.
- USG 1.6 Evaluate the organization of government in confederal, federal, and unitary systems of government including distribution of power and advantages & disadvantages of each system.

Social Studies Literacy Skills for the 21st Century

- Evaluate the validity of points of view/biases using evidence and sound reasoning.
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize social studies information to make inferences and draw conclusions.
- Model informed participatory citizenship.
- Explain how groups work to challenge traditional institutions and effect change to promote societal needs and interests.

United States Government

Standard USG-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of foundational American political principles and the historical events and philosophical ideas that shaped the development and application of these principles.

Essential Understanding: The United States government was established by and operates under the principles set forth in the US Constitution. The historical development of these principles occurred over time. Subsequently, there were numerous influences critical to the creation of the US Constitution. As a result, the expression of these core principles has evolved. In order for students to understand the advancement of these principles they will be able to...

Indicators

- USG 2.1 Summarize core principles of United States government including limited government, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, individual rights, freedom, equality, and self-government.
- USG 2.2 Analyze developmental influences on the core political principles of US government including Greek democracy, Roman republicanism, Judeo-Christian heritage, and the European philosophers John Locke, Montesquieu, and William Blackstone
- USG 2.3 Analyze the British heritage that fostered development of the core political principles of US government including the Magna Carta, Glorious Revolution, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact, and the Petition of Right (1628).
- USG 2.4 Evaluate significant American founding documents in relation to core political principles including the Declaration of Independence, Articles of Confederation, state constitutions, US Constitution, Federalist Papers (#10 & #51), Anti-Federalist Papers, and the Bill of Rights.
- USG 2.5 Evaluate significant American historical documents in relation to the application of core principles including the Nullification Crisis, Seneca Falls Declaration, Emancipation Proclamation, Cross of Gold speech, Letter from a Birmingham Jail, amendments to the US Constitution (11-27), and critical Supreme Court cases.

Social Studies Literacy Skills for the 21st Century

- Model informed participatory citizenship.
- Explain how groups work to challenge traditional institutions and effect change to promote societal needs and interests.
- Analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs.
- Examine the relationship of the present to the past and use knowledge of the past to make informed decisions in the present and extrapolate into the future.

United States Government

Standard USG-3: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the basic organization and function of United States government on the national, state & local levels as outlined in the U.S. Constitution and the role of federalism in addressing distribution of power.

Enduring Understanding

The organization and structure of government at both the national and sub national levels in the United States is based upon principles established in the U.S. Constitution. The most fundamental aspect of organized government within the United States is to limit the ability to concentrate power of any one institution of government through the functional distribution of power, oversight, and responsibilities. In order for students to understand the structure and organization of United States government as the embodiment of Constitutional principles they will be able to...

Indicators

- USG 3.1 Evaluate the Constitution as the written form for the United States government including expression of the core principles of limited government, federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, rule of law, popular sovereignty, republicanism, individual rights, freedom, equality, and self-government.
- USG 3.2 Evaluate the formal and informal structure, role, responsibilities, and authority of the legislative branch of national government as the embodiment of Constitutional principles.
- USG 3.3 Evaluate the formal and informal structure, role, responsibilities, and authority of the executive branch of national government as the embodiment of Constitutional principles.
- USG 3.3 Evaluate the formal and informal structure, role, responsibilities, and authority of the judicial branch of national government as the embodiment of Constitutional principles.
- USG 3.4 Analyze federalism and its application in the United States, including the concepts of enumerated, concurrent, & reserved powers, the meaning of the 9th and 10th Amendments, the principle of states' rights, the promotion of limited government, the protection of individual rights, and the potential for conflict among the levels of government.
- USG 3.5 Analyze the organization and responsibilities of local and state governments in the United States' federal system including the role of state constitutions, limitations on state governments, the typical organization of state governments, the relationship between state and local governments, and major responsibilities of state governments.

Social Studies Literacy Skills for the 21st Century

- Explain how institutions are similar or different across time and/or throughout the world.
- Analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs.
- Evaluate the validity of points of view/biases using evidence and sound reasoning.
- Examine the relationship of the present to the past and use knowledge of the past to make informed decisions in the present and extrapolate into the future.

United States Government

Standard USG-4: The student will demonstrate an understanding of civil rights and liberties, the role of American citizens in the American political system, and distinctive expressions of American political culture.

Essential Understanding

The citizen is the most important component in a nation ruled by self-government. Having an informed citizenry who participates in the political process is essential. In order for students to understand the meaning of being an American citizen they will be able to...

Indicators

- USG 4.1 Evaluate the role of the citizen in the American political process including civic responsibilities, identification of citizenship, and the interaction between the citizen & government.
- USG 4.2 Analyze the process of political socialization and its relation to political participation.
- USG 4.3 Evaluate the role and usage of common avenues utilized by citizens in political participation including political parties, voting, polls, interest groups, and community service.
- USG 4.4 Analyze the process through which citizens monitor and influence public policy including political parties, interest groups, the media, assembly, lobbying, donations, issue advocacy and candidate support.
- USG 4.5 Evaluate the importance of civil rights and civil liberties for citizens in American political culture.
- USG 4.6 Analyze the role of the national government in relation to the civil rights and liberties of its citizens including the Bill of Rights, the judicial system & Supreme Court, and the 14th Amendment and incorporation.
- USG 4.7 Explain how fundamental values, principles, and rights often conflict within the American political system, why these conflicts arise, and how these conflicts can be/addressed.

Social Studies Literacy Skills for the 21st Century

- Understand responsible citizenship in relation to the state, national and international communities.
- Explain the relationship of him/herself to others in the global community
- Explain contemporary patterns of human behavior, geospatial political and economic systems, and cultural differences.
- Examine the relationship of the present to the past and use knowledge of the past to make informed decisions in the present and extrapolate into the future.

United States Government

Standard USG-5: The student will demonstrate an understanding of how the world is organized politically, the nature of United States foreign policy, and the United States' role in world affairs.

Essential Understanding

Culture, economics, knowledge and politics are no longer constrained by the traditional boundaries of nation-states. As contemporary issues, and their solutions, become more global in nature it's important to understand how the United States engages international political organizations and world governments while maintaining allegiance to core American values. In order for students to understand the United States' role in the contemporary world they will be able to ...

Indicators

- USG 5.1 Explain the organization of the world into nation-states and the growing role of supranational organizations such as the UN and EU.
- USG 5.2 Analyze the basic governmental components of nation-states including parliamentary & presidential systems, legitimacy, illiberal democracy, representation & ethnicity, proportional/single-member representation and political culture.
- USG 5.1 Critique the interaction between and among nation-states including the importance of international trade, alliances, international organizations, treaties, and the military.
- USG 5.2 Analyze the major responsibilities of the US government in foreign policy as well as how foreign policy is determined including the role and structure of the executive branch relating to foreign policy, national security, trade policy, alliances, and projection of American ideals.
- USG 5.3 Evaluate the purpose and role of US membership in significant international organizations including NATO, UN, OAS, IMF, and the World Bank.
- USG 5.4 Analyze significant contemporary global issues and the US response to these issues including terrorism, proliferation of nuclear weapons, genocide/human rights, marketization, democratization, globalization, immigration, and economic interdependency.
- USG 5.5 Critique current debate on defining the role of the United States in world affairs including ideas of nationalism, American principles, American interests, nation-building, peacekeeping, human rights, environmentalism, protectionism and growing globalization.

Social Studies Literacy Skills for the 21st Century

- Understand responsible citizenship in relation to the state, national and international communities.

- Explain contemporary patterns of human behavior, geospatial political and economic systems, and cultural differences.
- Trace and describe continuity and change across cultures.
- Analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims and beliefs.
- Analyze, interpret, and synthesize social studies information to make inferences and draw conclusions.

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